In the Specification:

[0026] The message types for a bus may typically correspond to the messages defined by the protocol of the bus, i.e., the bus type's standard message types. However, message types can have broader applications. Users can develop custom message types to manage specific testing scenarios. Therefore, although message types are generally consistent with the target bus protocol, ~~but~~ they need not be limited to the specific messages that the protocol defines.

[0032] Definitions of the communication element types may be implemented in numerous ways. For example, they may be implemented in a single computer file, in different computer files, in hardware, or in any combination of these. In the preferred embodiment, the communication element types are provided in the form of bus files in XML format. The bus file identifies communication element types with "tags." For example, a different tag is used for each field type, for each word type, and for each message type. The following code section shows ~~is~~ a generalized example of field type definitions in a bus file:

```
<Fields [fields attributes]>

    <Field Name = "Field 1" [field type settings] />
    <Field Name = "Field 2" [field type settings] />
    ...
    <Field Name = "Field L" [field type settings] />

</Fields>
```